



NEWS RELEASE

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LT. GENERAL ALFRED D. STARBIRD, USA (RETIRED), APPOINTED
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

Lieutenant General Alfred D. Starbird, USA (Retired), has been selected Deputy Director (Test and Evaluation), Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense. He will assume his new duties on June 7, 1971.

This is a newly created position as a result of recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel. General Starbird will be the senior official in the Department of Defense devoting full time to test and evaluation matters. As such, he will advise the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense concerning policy for the test and evaluation of all important defense weapon systems and equipments; insure that test schedules are consistent with important decision milestones in the acquisition process; insure that the Services identify the critical issues to be addressed by development tests and operational tests; review test results and provide recommendations prior to production go-ahead; review Service offices of test and evaluation plans and monitor their execution; initiate and coordinate test and evaluation activity involving more than one military Service; exercise overall policy direction of the operation, development, and programming for DoD test ranges and facilities.

General Starbird was graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1933 with a B.S. degree, and was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers. He later pursued graduate work at Princeton University, receiving the degree of Civil Engineer in 1937.

In his military career, General Starbird had broad experience in the development and testing of major weapons systems. From 1955 to 1961, he was on duty with the Atomic Energy Commission as the Director of Military Applications, supervising and directing the development, testing, and production of atomic weapons. In 1961, as Commander of Joint Task Force 8, he directed the last atmospheric atomic test series. From 1962 to 1967, he was Director of the Defense Communications Agency. During the last years of this assignment, he organized and directed the Defense Communications Planning Group which developed, produced, and deployed the integrated sensor equipment for Southeast Asia operations. From November, 1967, until his retirement in March, 1971, General Starbird was the Army's System Manager for the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile program.

Born April 28, 1912, at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, General Starbird is married and has three children.

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New Pentagon Post

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird (ret.), who managed the Army's Safeguard antiballistic-missile program and the Pentagon effort to build the so-called McNamara Line across South Vietnam, was named deputy director of defense research and engineering yesterday.

This is a new job in the office of Dr. John S. Foster Jr., director of Pentagon research. Starbird, who retired in March, will receive \$37,624 a year, plus part of his military retirement pay, as Foster's deputy.

Starbird came in for heavy congressional criticism for his memorandum on how to sell the Safeguard ABM. The McNamara Line of sensors also has been assailed by some law-

makers. But many senior military men considered the electronic devices highly effective in Vietnam.

Foster himself has also been criticized heavily lately by the Federation of American Scientists. The group charges he has been "irresponsible" in exaggerating the Soviet threat.

The Pentagon news release said Starbird's appointment stems from "recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel," a group that reviewed the organization of the Defense Department for Secretary Melvin R. Laird.

What the Blue Ribbon committee actually recommended, to quote its report dated July 1, 1970, was this: "The position of director, defense research and engineering, should be abolished and his functions reallocated between the assistant secretary of defense for research and advanced technology and the assistant secretary of defense for engineering development."

The Blue Ribbon committee further recommended that a defense test agency should be established "to perform the functions of overview of all defense test and evaluation. . . ." The new test agency, the report said, "should be under the supervision of a civilian director."

Instead of such a civilian director, the Pentagon yesterday said that "Gen. Starbird will be the senior official in the Department of Defense devoting full time to test and evaluation matters. . . ."

The panel's idea was to put research and development in one office and the testing in another so that there would be a more independent assessment of the research projects undertaken.

A major reason for cost overrun on weapons systems, said panel chairman Gilbert W. Fitzhugh in arguing for an independent testing setup, has been "because people aren't willing to admit what looked like a good idea in all good conscience turned out not to be such a good idea."

Since Starbird will report to Foster, Fitzhugh's recommendation to separate "the user from the provider" has not been followed in this new structuring of the Pentagon's research and engineering office.

Starbird, a West Point graduate supervised the development and testing of atomic weapons while serving as director of military applications for the Atomic Energy Commission from 1955 to 1961. Foster then had close connections with the AEC as a physicist at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory at Livermore, Calif.

Starbird was director of the Defense Communications Agency from 1962 to 1967 when he became Safeguard system manager. He reports to his new job on June 7.